

# **Wastewater Operator Certification Program Advisory Committee**

## **Meeting Summary**

### **November 14, 2001**

Attendees included: Frank Boyle, Tammie McClure, Russ Glaser, Jill Parker, Tim Pelton, Don Proctor, John Schoening, Chris Sheridan, Dewey Weaver

#### **Welcome & Introductions**

Welcomed Frank Boyle, Commissioner, Liberty Lake Sewer District, and Dewey Weaver, Supervisor, Technical Services Unit (Ecology)

#### **Review Agenda**

No changes made.

#### **Committee Membership**

Tammie will contact possible new committee members including:

Kevin Grubb – Group II representative  
Doug Miller – Group III representative  
Jim Hunt – Group IV representative

*Vacant positions on committee:*

- Need two Group I representatives
- Need one Group II representative

*Members whose term ends December 31<sup>st</sup>:*

- Tim Pelton
- Jill Parker

#### **Exams**

Report: There are currently have 1,744 active operators with certificate expiration dates of 2001 and 129 with certificate expiration dates of 2002 for a total of 1,873 active operators.

At the committee's request, Tammie will attempt to query a break-down of active operators by Group and the number of reciprocities per year.

June 2001 exam statistics –

Grp OIT/I	39 examinees	90% passed
Grp II	18 examinees	95% passed
Grp III	25 examinees	80% passed
Grp IV	12 examinees	75% passed

Jill Parker again voiced concerns regarding the ABC Formula/Conversion Table. Jill Parker and Don Proctor will draft a letter addressing those concerns to be reviewed by the committee and then sent to ABC for their review. Would like to get the letter to ABC in January 2002.

### **Professional Growth**

Report: Of the 1,873 active operators 367 have met their professional growth requirement. For most of the operators their professional growth period ends December 31, 2003.

### **Program Policies**

Reviewed and updated program policies. Will return the revised policies to the committee for approval.

Tammie will draft policies on the following subjects to be reviewed at the next meeting:

Revocation & How it Affects Reciprocity  
CD Rom & Online Training

The Wastewater Operator Certification Program has gotten requests to provide a list of WWTP Operators' addresses and phone numbers. It is Washington State's policy not to release personal information that has been collected. In some cases, however, these lists are being requested by employers looking for certified operators to fill positions. Since it is difficult to tell who indeed wants the information for positive reasons, Ecology releases the information to no one. The committee would like us to, if possible, be able to send a list of operators only if they have agreed to release that information. One suggestion was to have a release agreement be part of the annual renewal process. If the operator specifically authorizes the release of information, they would be put on a mailing list that would be sent to anyone requesting the information.

Tammie will check into and report at the next meeting on the possibility of providing names & addresses of operators to those that request such lists. Including a way to remove those operators' names that do not want their information released.

Tammie will also check into the Department of Health's policy regarding the release of personal information.

### **Process & Communication Improvements**

Tammie requested ideas for information to include in the next WW Op Cert Newsletter and they were as follows:

- Requirement that one out of three CEUs will need to be wastewater treatment specific
- Job Opportunities
- Article from permit writer
- Technical Assistance Article
- Professional Growth Update
- Include Website Address
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The website address should also be included in the annual renewal notice.

Suspension information should be included on the website.

### **Roundtable**

Metro is looking for operator.

Need to work on getting reciprocity with California, New York, and Texas.  
(The current reciprocity list shows that we do have reciprocity with New York for Groups I, II, III, & IV and reciprocity with California for Groups I & II only.)

### **Next Meeting**

April 3, 2002 in Ellensburg and Rick Bolinger may be able to get a room.